

[COPY]
Emerson, Mary to Anna Parsons

[written on top "Rec'd Sep 14th 1847
Ans Nov.9th A.Q.P.]

Lowell Sept.8th 1847

My dear Miss Parsons:- As you truly say, "strong bonds have been formed by our little Unions, if no other good has been accomplished." Although I have never seen your face, and perhaps I never may, yet my spirit learned to look upon thy spirit-face and love it too. I rejoice that a few isolated links in the great chain of Order have been drawn together, but the eye of Hope and Faith, looks on through the opening vista, to the coming time when link shall meet link, until the great chain shall be complete, that must encircle the whole universe of God, and bind His children in one common tie of brotherhood. "We may not live to see the Day." "But earth shall glisten in the ray;" "Of the good time coming." And shall we not watch its progress, although we may have taken the second great step in existence, or, in other words died? Do you not think the spirit takes cognisance of the things of time? Why, it seems to me that I could not die, that I should cling to life with a tenacity that even death itself could not conquer, if I thought I should not [be] allowed to hover near, and watch over those whom I had loved and cherished, as my own life. Call it fancy if you please, but there is something within which tells me that as the spirit is immortal, so shall it be cognisant. I regard to the statistics of factory labor of which you speak, I shall not be able to give you a very systematic account this time. The editor of the 'Voice' intends gathering them as fast as possible, for publication. They shall be forwarded to you as soon as they are prepared. I have an utter aversion, too much as I know, to gathering facts connected with labor. I am weary, heart-to forget it all, and linger around the few green spots, and cull sick of aggression, monopoly and wrong. I like the varying wild flowers that spring around the pathway of life. The portion of labor

assigned each girl is not as far as the mere labor is concerned, in some portions, very toilsome; the weaving, and some other portions are so. It is the close confinement, long hours, and impure air, that robs the cheek of its rose, and the frame of its elasticity and imparts a languidness and inactivity, which renders the operative almost unfit for mental or physical exertion after the hours of labor. But notwithstanding all these evils I think it the easiest way a female dependant upon her own exertions can obtain a living; neither do I think there are more, nor as many evils connected with that as with the system of domestic drudgery. I think the cause has been much retarded, (unintentionally, no doubt, in many cases), by the surplus facts given to the public by lecturers over the unhappy fate of the subjects, of which I, with nearly one half my years spent in a manufacturing city knew not of, or rather knew did not exist. Every victim of the present false system of society knows there are plenty of evils without imagining any. Every system of labor suffers, every one is obliged to suffer. Your plan in regard to raising fund meets my approbation perfectly, and also that of all the members of our "Union" who have expressed an opinion. I hope we shall be able to do something. I think the prospects of our society are better than they have been for some time past. Like your own, we have been scattered during the hot season & we are somewhat gathered again. We have taken some steps toward forming a class, that we may gain more intimate knowledge of scientific Association. We intend in future to count on strength, and not numbers. We have with us, (permanently we hope) some truthful friends of Association, who have been for some time absent, on whom we depend much for our future success. Shall we not hear from you soon? The members of our Union heartily reciprocate the kind greetings of yours, and beg to hear from you often

Yours in hope of a bright future

P. Please direct me at 21 Central Street.

Mary Emerson

Addressed to Miss Anna C.T. Parsons

Lenox

Mass.

Rec'd Sep 14th 1847

18. Mary Emerson

Ans. - Doug^{ts} - ad Lowell Sept 9th 1847

My Dear Min^{ie} Parsons: - As you truly say, "strong bonds have been formed by our little 'unions, if no other good has been accomplished." Although I have never ^{seen} your face, and perhaps I never may, yet, my spirit learned to look upon thy spirit face and love it too. I rejoice that a few isolated links in the great chain of Order have been drawn together, but the eye of Hope and Faith, looks on through the opening vista, to the coming time, when link shall meet link, until the great chain shall be complete, that must encircle the whole universe of God, and bind His children in one common tie of brotherhood. "We may not live to see the day," "But earth shall glisten in the ray;" "Of the good time coming;" And shall we not watch its progress, although we may have taken the second great step in existence, or, in other words died? Do you not think the spirit takes cognizance of the things of time? Why, it seems to me that I could not die, that I should cling to life with a tenacity that even death itself could not conquer, if I thought I should not allowed to hover near, and watch over ^{those} whom I had loved and cherished, as my own life. Call it fancy if you please, but there is something within which tells me that as the spirit is immortal, so shall it be cognizant. I regard to the statistics of Factory labor of which you speak, I shall not be able to give you a very systematic account this time, The editor of the 'Voice'

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by the snappy summary facts given to the public by lecturers.
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of which I, with nearly nine half my years spent in a
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Yours in hope of a bright future
Mary Emerson,

P.S. Please direct me at 21. Central Street.

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Miss Anna L. T. Parsons.

London
1854

Sum of the above